



Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center

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Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center is a nonprofit organization, located in downtown Newark, NJ whose mission is to provide a space for artists and educators of diverse backgrounds and disciplines to interact with the local and statewide community through performance, exhibition, and education, thus creating an exchange of cultural ideas and practices. The Mayor of Newark and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts have both honored Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center with their citation for Outstanding Programming in the State of New Jersey.

The Newark Chinatown Project

The Newark Chinatown Project began officially in 2000 with a Humanities grant from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Mellon Fund. Further research and documentation funding followed from The New Jersey Council for the Humanities. In 2003, with funding from Verizon Foundation, the Sumei Board, and the support of The New Jersey Historical Society, Sumei held The First Newark Chinatown Reunion. In 2004, Sumei received funding from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation to continue its effort to preserve the history of Newark Chinatown through the work of artist Ye Xun. Today May 21, 2005, we again thank Verizon for their funding of The Second Newark Chinatown Reunion and our first Chinese Heritage Celebration.

The Newark Chinatown Project is a documentation project of the history of the first Chinese who settled in New Jersey in 1870, and the cultural effects they had on New Jersey history and life in the 100 years they spent in the downtown area of Newark and its surroundings.

It is a growing body of historical work that will be archived in New York University Library, Asian Pacific American Studies Department, and also at the New Jersey Historical Society, with a publication in 2006.

We hope that one day there can be an Asian History Museum of New Jersey, so that this history can be passed down to generations of New Jersey children as their very own.